

# COMMITTEE CONCERNING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES

City of Middletown  
245 DeKoven Drive Room 208

Mar. 5, 2013

6:30 PM

**1. Members Present:** Marty Knight, Chairperson, August DeFrance, Marie Hurley, Elderrean Paules, Richard Pelletier, Keith Vinci, Karen Nocera, Staff, Parks and Recreation, McKenzie Guevarez, Youth in Govt. Representative, Denese Samuels, Youth in Government

**Absent:** Joseph Carta, Stephen Shapiro, Abigail Nolan, Youth in Government

**Staff Present:** Acting Director of Parks and Recreation and Senior Center – Debbie Stanley

**General Public:** Phil Cacciola and Shauna Matthews

**2. Meeting Called to Order:** Called to order at 6:30pm.

**3. Public Hearing:** The Committee discussed the audible signals letter that Keith Vinci composed. There were a few corrections that Keith has since made. A motion was made by Richard Pelletier and seconded by August DeFrance to approve this letter and it will be forwarded to Laura Runte so that she can send to the Mayor. Phil Cacciola mentioned that there will be a Building Committee for Veterans Memorial Park to develop the entire area. The goal is to have Veterans Memorial Park be a destination place. He reminded the Committee that, per City Ordinance, a member of the Committee Concerning People with Disabilities has to be on any building committee. Marie Hurley was appointed to serve on the Building Committee for the Pump Station. Phil Cacciola made mention of the fact that each time the Governor was on television during the Blizzard, he was shown with a sign language interpreter. A discussion ensued. The Committee agreed that a letter should be sent to the news stations thanking them for showing the sign language interpreters while the Governor spoke.

**4. Approval of Dec. Minutes:** A motion to approve the meeting minutes of Feb. 5, 2013, with the correction of Keith Vinci's last name was made by Marie Hurley and seconded by August DeFrance.

## Departmental Reports:

- August DeFrance stated that 1 meeting was postponed due to the snow storm but that the new Senior Center at Eckersley Hall is moving forward. They have tested for asbestos and lead. The Public Works Department has done a great job of taking out the floors. They can still use the wooden floors. There has been discussion about the heating and cooling system. The Veterans Museum will be moved out with the next six (6) weeks. The State has given the museum project \$300,000.00 towards building the museum at Veterans Memorial Park. A discussion ensued.
- Ellie Paules of Monarca Place mentioned that the issues regarding bathroom flooding at Debbie's apartment is still ongoing. Ellie mentioned that she was going to call the office to try to resolve this issue. There is a meeting that will be held during springtime and this issue should be brought up at that meeting. A discussion ensued.
- Karen Nocera discussed the Penguin Plunge. The Parks and Recreation Departments raised \$3,770.00. Middletown raised over \$30,000.00. The Unified Theater production of "Unified Theater Television" was performed last week. There were a total of 50 children with a third of these children having a disability. The performance was wonderful. Keith Vinci was a huge help. He taught the children how to sign the song "I am Beautiful". The Park and Recreation brochures

went out. Keith Vinci is starting a sign language class next week March 14, 2013. This will be held at Keigwin Middle School at 6pm. A discussion ensued.

#### **Old Business**

- **Parking issue at 118 Newfield Street Unit 8:**
  - Resolved
- **Sidewalk issues on Newfield Street:**
  - Ongoing

#### **New Business:**

- Marty Knight was reappointed to the Committee Concerning People with Disabilities for another 5 year term.

#### **Miscellaneous:**

- Ellie had mentioned that two men came to Monarca Place advertising that on March 26<sup>th</sup> in Waterbury there would be a special religious service for the hearing impaired. There will be no interpreters at this service because everyone signs. She allowed them to put a flyer up advertising this event.
- Marty Knight introduced Shauna Matthews to the Committee. Shauna is an Assistant Manager at an Adult with Disability Center.
- There was discussion about the locker room at Middletown High School. McKenzie Guevarez stated that Track and Field begins on March 18, 2013 and at that time will find out who is able to use the locker rooms. She will report back to the Committee at the next meeting on Tuesday, April 2, 2013.

**Adjournment:** A motion of adjournment was made by Richard Pelletier and was seconded by Keith Vinci. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Stanley

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